United Nations A/C.3/62/L.17

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
17 October 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Third Committee
Agenda item 63 (a)
Advancement of women: advancement of women

Estonia, Guatemala, Iceland, Jordan, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea and Sudan: draft resolution

United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, in which it established the United Nations Development Fund for Women as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, as well as its resolution 60/137 of 16 December 2005,

Reaffirming the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] which recognizes the special role of the Fund in the promotion of the economic and political empowerment of women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2]

Emphasizing that implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

Reaffirming also the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality,

Reaffirming further all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

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Recognizing the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] and noting that the number of States parties to the Convention is among the highest for human rights conventions,

Welcoming the contributions that the Fund has made in supporting initiatives of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to formulate and implement activities that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recalling its resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and stressing the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to implement their global, regional and country-level activities in accordance with their mandates,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997[4] and subsequent Council resolutions on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[5]

Noting the importance of the work of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme directions, as stipulated in the annex to resolution 39/125,

Recognizing the ongoing intergovernmental consultation process on the recommendations of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, including those on gender equality and women's empowerment,

1. *Welcomes* decision 2007/35, adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund at its second regular session of 2007 on 14 September 2007, in which the Executive Board endorsed the strategic priorities and results set out in the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011;[6]

2. *Also welcomes* the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, containing the results-focused report of progress in implementing its multi-year funding framework 2004-2007;[7]

3. *Commends* the focus by the Fund on strategic programmes in its four key thematic areas of work, namely, enhancing women's economic security and rights, ending violence against women and reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women, achieving gender equality in democratic governance, and supporting innovative programming in the context of the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and commitments made at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[2] and at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;[8]

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[5] 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006 and 2007/33 of 27 July 2007.

[6] DP/2007/45.

[7] A/62/188.

[8] See E/CN.6/2005/2 and Corr.1.

4. *Calls upon* Member States, intergovernmental bodies and the United Nations system to address the fragmentation and lack of adequate coordination, inadequate status, and under-resourcing of the existing gender entities which hamper the gender-equality work of the United Nations system both at Headquarters and at global, regional and national levels;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the coordination efforts between the United Nations Development Fund for Women and other funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and calls upon those entities to strengthen their collaborative efforts;

6. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with national development strategies, and to ensure systematic monitoring, evaluation and reporting while also facilitating the participation of women in these processes;

7. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to contribute to the harmonization and coordination processes of United Nations reform through, inter alia, strengthened partnerships with other funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system and through the promotion of development, including technical cooperation, women's human rights and a gender-equality perspective in the policies, guidelines and tools developed by the United Nations Development Group;

8. *Encourages* the participation of the Fund in relevant high-level inter-agency coordination mechanisms and calls upon the United Nations system to ensure the participation of relevant gender entities in system-wide cooperation in order to achieve better coordination with other United Nations bodies;

9. *Encourages* the Fund to support strengthened and coordinated action on gender equality at the country level, including by designating Fund representatives, where the Fund already has presence, with the authority to work with the concerned Governments to identify, formulate and execute programmes and projects, within the mandate of the Fund and in line with national priorities, and to enhance cooperation with, and active support for, resident coordinators for operational activities of the United Nations, on the understanding that this will not result in increased administrative expenditure for the Fund;

10. *Reiterates its call* to the United Nations development system to avail itself of the technical experience of the Fund and other gender specialist resources of the United Nations system to support enhanced programming and policies on gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels;

11. *Encourages* Member States and United Nations organizations to further explore with the Fund possible innovative representational arrangements, including through the use of seconded staff, project offices and other means;

12. *Notes* the activities undertaken by the Fund in follow-up to resolution 60/137, to address the impact of armed conflict on women, to enhance the role of

women in peacebuilding, and to support the participation of women in peace processes, and urges the Fund to support a coordinated approach of the United Nations system, including cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant United Nations entities as well as Member States, regional organizations and other United Nations partners, to strengthen gender justice in transitional justice processes and in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, to support the participation of women in post-conflict governance institutions, and to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to prevent the use of sexual violence as a weapon in conflict, and provide adequate response to survivors of this violence;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, established by General Assembly resolution 50/166 of 22 December 1995, as an inter-agency mechanism to respond to the deep concern regarding the persistence of violence and crimes against women in all parts of the world expressed by the Assembly, which has urged the relevant United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and specialized agencies to enhance the coordination of and intensify the support to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and, while emphasizing the importance of enhancing the effectiveness of the Trust Fund, urges all Governments, non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors to consider contributing or increasing contributions to the Trust Fund;

14. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to support the gender-equality and women's empowerment goals and targets of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session,[9] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS of the sixtieth session of the Assembly,[10] by working closely with women who are affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS to develop their capacity to influence programmes and policies, building on its partnerships within the United Nations system, in particular with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);

15. *Welcomes* the strengthened partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate the participation of the Fund in the work of the Joint Programme in order to avail its co-sponsors of the expertise of the Fund with respect to the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS;

16. *Encourages* the Fund to respond to country requests for the development or strengthening of accountability mechanisms for gender equality, including by coordinating United Nations country team support to build the capacity of Governments to undertake gender-responsive budget analysis and to use sex-disaggregated data as a basis for gender-responsive public policy formulation;

17. *Also encourages* the Fund to continue to assist Governments in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] in order to advance gender equality at all levels, including by reinforcing the cooperation between Governments and civil society, especially women's organizations, and by supporting efforts to follow up, as appropriate, the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

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[9] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[10] Resolution 60/262, annex.

18. *Calls upon* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his role as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to further clarify the lines of responsibility, especially between the Programme and the Fund, to ensure that the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams provide coherent support to countries on gender equality, and between the Fund and other United Nations Development Group member organizations, to ensure greater effectiveness in United Nations operational activities related to gender equality;

19. *Recognizes with appreciation* the increases in core contributions and, particularly, non-core contributions to the Fund made by Member States, private organizations and foundations, whose increased contributions demonstrate their commitment to the issues on which the Fund is working;

20. *Urges*, accordingly, Member States, non-governmental organizations and members of private organizations and foundations that have contributed to the Fund to continue to contribute and to consider increasing their financial contributions, and urges others that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Fund to enable it to reach the targets for core resources, which are essential for ensuring the predictability and effective planning of its activities.